

APPROVED: Meeting No. 20-90

ATTEST: *Sharon A. Gran*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 19-90

May 1, 1990

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland Avenue at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, on May 1, 1990, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember Viola D. Hovsepian

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember David Robbins

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer and City Clerk Sharon Gran.

Re: Worksession with
Housing Authority

Sandra Crewe, Executive Director, Ardell Shirley, Chairperson, and members of the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners discussed the following issues with the Mayor and Council:

1. Public Housing - Rental. There are currently 161 households paying an average rent of \$278 per month. The May, 1990 rent roll is \$44,041, and there are currently three vacancies at David Scull Courts.

2. Homeownership. There are a total of 15 units in the program, three of which families are now in the process of purchasing.

3. Section 8 Voucher. Thirty-five units are under contract, five of which are at Congressional Towers. The average payment is \$429 per month. In response to Councilmember Coyle's question as to what would happen if Section 8 funding expires, the Executive Director responded that they have reserves of two years available.

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Additionally, as long as the individuals are acting responsibly, their vouchers would be renewed.

The Executive Director indicated that the biggest problem is portability; that the vouchers can be issued and used anywhere in the County. She indicated that the Housing Authority could make the decision to operate outside of the City, that is, within a ten-mile radius, but is not inclined to do so at this time.

4. SRO (Single Room Occupancy). The Executive Director reported that they are working with Community Ministries. Mayor Duncan noted that Community Ministries has submitted a request for \$50,000 for a SRO project. Discussion followed regarding Town Centre Inn and the fact that it would make an ideal housing project. The need for transitional housing was also discussed as a method for determining if individuals are ready to reenter the housing market.

5. Senior Housing. The Executive Director stated that one of the Commissioners, Carole Cohen, who was unable to be present had requested that the senior housing project at Jerusalem Church be mentioned. Councilmember Hovsepian asked if there really is a need in the City for more senior housing. The Executive Director responded that she does not see it at Rockville Housing Authority because they don't have senior housing. Staff was requested to prepare an analysis of calls received requesting senior housing, a comparison of senior housing units to the senior population and an average age as compared to the national level.

Mayor Duncan noted that he understands Jerusalem Church may want to expand their church rather than build senior housing, but that he didn't know if a final decision has been made.

6. Scattered Site Units. There have been very few complaints about scattered sites. HUD has been requested to increase the ceiling. Three units can still be purchased in Lincoln Park, and up to three more units can be purchased in the area of

Rockcrest. Although approved for 25, only 18 sites have been purchased.

It was noted that the most critical need for housing is for families earning between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

The new siding at David Scull Courts has greatly improved the appearance of the project. Regarding air conditioning for the Housing Authority projects, a study is currently underway regarding the feasibility of central air versus window units. Mayor Duncan requested that information be forwarded to staff and that testimony be provided at the budget hearings.

Also discussed was a plan for structured activities with staffing for the 15-21 age population in Lincoln Park. Mayor Duncan responded that this could also be discussed during the budget in conjunction with the Police, Community Services and Recreation and Parks departments.

Re: Worksession with
Human Rights Commission

Robert Dorsey, Chairperson, and members of the Human Rights Commission discussed the following issues with the Mayor and Council.

1. Affirmative Action. Mr. Dorsey stated that he has notified the City Manager of the Commission's suggested changes to the Affirmative Action Plan. The City Manager will include these suggested changes in his report to the Mayor and Council.

2. Ordinance Changes. The Commission is investigating suggested changes in addition to those which were the subject of a recent public hearing. Mayor Duncan requested that the changes be forwarded as soon as possible. In response to Councilmember Hovsepan, Commission member Welter indicated that the changes are in the form of legal upgrades.

3. Commission Role. Councilmember Marrinan stated that he was impressed with the forum on hate/violence sponsored by the West End Citizens Association which was

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moderated by Mr. Dorsey. He indicated that these are ideal activities for the Commission. Mayor Duncan commented that a group is being formed in response to the Richard Montgomery incident to develop a list of what should be done when incidents of hate/violence occur. The Human Rights Commission will be involved, and Commission Member Sandra Levine volunteered to participate.

4. Michael Taff Community Service Award. The Commission desires to recognize an individual or company distinguishing itself in the area of accommodation for the handicapped. The annual award will be presented at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration. Mayor Duncan recommended that the Commission proceed with these plans.

5. Commission Composition. The importance of the Commission maintaining its diversified composition was emphasized by Mr. Dorsey.

In connection with the Human Rights Award, Councilmember Coyle asked if there are still two awards. Commission member Welter responded that the Commission is working through the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Duncan noted that this issue would be discussed as part of the budget.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m., to convene again in General Session at 7:30 p.m. on May 14, 1990, or at the call of the Mayor.